

We Claim:

1. A retinal implant comprising:
a device for implantation in an eye for stimulation of a retina of the eye;
and
a diamond-like carbon film deposited on at least a portion of the device.
2. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the device is suitable for epi-retinal implantation.
3. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the device is suitable for sub-retinal implantation.
4. The retinal implant of claim 3, wherein the sub-retinal implant comprises at least one photovoltaic device.
5. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the diamond-like carbon film comprises at least one opening therein.
6. The retinal implant of claim 5, wherein the device comprises at least one electrode and the at least one opening in the diamond-like carbon film is aligned with the at least one electrode.
7. The retinal implant of claim 5, wherein at least one electrode is formed within the at least one opening in the diamond-like carbon film.
8. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of diamond-like carbon film is electrically conductive.
9. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the diamond-like carbon film is substantially transparent to wavelengths of visible light.
10. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the diamond-like carbon film is substantially transparent to wavelengths of infrared light.

11. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the diamond-like carbon film comprises a plurality of structurally different diamond-like carbon films.

12. The retinal implant of claim 1, wherein the diamond-like carbon film comprises a structurally graded diamond-like carbon film.

13. A retinal implant provided by the process of:
providing a device for implantation in an eye for stimulation of a retina of the eye;
forming a carbonaceous cathodic arc plasma; and
directing the plasma to the device to deposit a diamond-like carbon film on at least a portion of the device.

14. The retinal implant of claim 13, wherein the process further comprises:
magnetically filtering the plasma prior to deposition of the diamond-like carbon film on the device.

15. The retinal implant of claim 13, wherein the process further comprises:
electrically biasing the device during deposition of the diamond-like carbon film on the device.

16. The retinal implant of claim 15, further comprising electrically biasing the device in a pulsed fashion.

17. The retinal implant of claim 13, wherein the process further comprises:
removing at least a portion of the diamond-like carbon film to create at least one opening therein.

18. The retinal implant of claim 13, wherein the process further comprises:
rendering at least a portion of the diamond-like carbon film electrically conductive.

19. A method for providing a retinal implant, the method comprising:
providing a device for implantation in an eye for stimulation of a retina
of the eye; and
depositing a diamond-like carbon film on at least a portion of the
device.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein depositing the diamond-like
carbon film further comprises:
forming a carbonaceous cathodic arc plasma; and
directing the plasma to the device to deposit the diamond-like carbon
film.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein depositing the diamond-like
carbon film further comprises:
magnetically filtering the plasma prior to deposition of the diamond-like
carbon film on the device.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein depositing the diamond-like
carbon film further comprises:
electrically biasing the device during deposition of the diamond-like
carbon film on the device.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising electrically biasing
the device in a pulsed fashion.

24. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
removing at least a portion of the diamond-like carbon film to form an
opening therein.

25. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
rendering at least a portion of diamond-like carbon film electrically
conductive.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein depositing the diamond-like carbon film further comprises depositing a diamond-like carbon film that is substantially transparent to wavelengths of visible light.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein depositing the diamond-like carbon film further comprises depositing a diamond-like carbon film that is substantially transparent to wavelengths of infrared light.